

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-19, amend claim 21, cancel claims 23-43, amend claims 50 and 51, and add new claims 52-57 as follows:

1-19 (CANCELED)

20. (ORIGINAL) A method of storing a video program in response to a user demand, wherein the video program is repeatedly transmitted on one of a plurality of channels, each repeated transmission separated in time from a preceding transmission of the video program by a retransmission interval and being transmitted on a different channel than the previous transmission, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one of a plurality of video programs; and

receiving a plurality of time segments of the selected video program in parallel, wherein each of the time segments is received on a different one of the channels.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 20, wherein the time segments of the selected video program are staggered in time by the retransmission interval.

22. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 20, further comprising the step of:

selecting a second video program for real time reception; and

receiving the selected second video program in real time while receiving the plurality of time segments of the selected video program in parallel.

23-43 (CANCELED)

44. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for storing a video program in response to a user demand, wherein the video program is repeatedly transmitted on one of a plurality of channels, each repeated transmission separated in time from a preceding transmission of the video program by a retransmission interval and being transmitted on a different channel than the previous transmission, the method comprising:

means for selecting at least one of a plurality of video programs; and
means for receiving a plurality of time segments of the selected video program in parallel,
wherein each of the time segments is received on a different one of the channels.

45. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 44, wherein the time segments of the selected video program are staggered in time by the transmission interval.

46. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 44, further comprising:
means for selecting a second video program for real time reception; and
means for receiving the selected second video program in real time while receiving the plurality of time segments of the selected video program in parallel.

47. (CANCELED)

48. (ORIGINAL) An apparatus for providing a video program in response to a user demand, wherein the video program is repeatedly transmitted on one of a plurality of channels, each repeated transmission temporally separated from a previous transmission by a retransmission interval and being transmitted on a different channel than the previous transmission, the apparatus comprising:

an input device for accepting a selection of at least one of a plurality of video programs for VOD service;

a tuner for receiving multiple segments of the selected video program in parallel, wherein each segment is received on one of the plurality of channels; and

a storage device, for pre-storing a first segment of the selected video program, and for storing subsequent segments of the selected video program in parallel while retrieving the pre-stored first segment of the selected video program.

49. (ORIGINAL) The apparatus of Claim 48, further comprising:
a memory for storing a program guide having an entry for each of the video programs; and
a processor, coupled to the input device and the tuner, and the memory, for scanning the program guide for a VOD service indicator, and for identifying the video program associated with the VOD service indicator as the selected video program.

50. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for providing a video program transmitted in time segments on a plurality of channels in response to a user demand, comprising:
an input device for accepting a selection of at least one of a plurality of video programs for VOD service;
a tuner for receiving time segments of the selected video program in parallel, wherein each segment is received on one of the plurality of channels; and
a storage device, for storing the time segments of the selected video program in parallel wherein each of the time segments is received on a different one of the channels.

51. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The apparatus of Claim 50, wherein the time segments of the selected video program are staggered in time by the retransmission interval.

52. (NEW) A method of pre-storing a video program to be later provided in response to a user demand, wherein the video program is repeatedly transmitted on one of a plurality of channels, each repeated transmission temporally separated from a previous transmission by a retransmission interval and being transmitted on a different channel than the previous transmission, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving and storing a first segment of a selected video program in a local storage device before accepting a user to view the video program, wherein a temporal length of the first segment is substantially equivalent to the retransmission interval; and

wherein portions of the first segment are received and stored on the plurality of channels in parallel.

53. (NEW) The method of Claim 52, wherein the selected video program is selected by performing steps comprising the steps of:

- scanning a program guide having an entry for each of the video programs for a VOD service indicator; and
- identifying a video program associated with the VOD service indicator as the selected video program.

54. (NEW) The method of Claim 52, wherein the selected video program is selected by performing steps comprising the steps of:

- accepting a selection of at least one of the video programs for VOD service; and
- associating the VOD indicator with the entry of each video program selected for VOD service.

55. (NEW) The method of Claim 52, wherein the selected video program is selected by performing steps comprising the steps of:

scanning a program guide having an entry for each of the video programs to identify at least one video program scheduled to be repeatedly transmitted on one of the plurality of channels, each repeated transmission temporally separated from the previous transmission by a retransmission interval and being transmitted on a different channel than the previous transmission; and

selecting the identified video program as the selected video program.

56. (NEW) The method of Claim 55, wherein the step of scanning the program guide comprises the step of comparing the video program information for each of the entries, wherein the video program information comprises a program title.

57. (NEW) The method of Claim 55, wherein the step of scanning the program guide comprises the step of comparing the video program information for each of the entries, wherein the video program information comprises a unique program identifier.